

Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-10 ISO-00 SIG-03 CIAE-00 DODE-00
PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01
SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11 ACDA-12 /101 R

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R 080112Z SEP 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY KABUL
INFO AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY LONDON
USLO PEKING
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 227523

E.O. 11652: XGDS (1)(2)(3)(4)

TAGS: PDIP, PINT, PINS, PINR, AF

SUBJECT: RECALL OF PARCHAMIST AMBASSADORS

REF: KABUL 7170

1. ACCORDING TO MINISTER-COUNSELOR TURABAZ OF AFGHAN
EMBASSY HE FIRST HEARD RUMORS OF RECALLS SATURDAY SEPT 2.
HE MENTIONED THESE RUMORS TO AMBASSADOR NOOR ON SEPTEMBER 5.
NOOR LAUGHED AND JOKED THAT HE HAD HEARD RUMOR TARAKI WAS
BEING SENT TO CHINA AS AMBASSADOR. AT AROUND THAT TIME
TELEX MACHINE SPRANG INTO ACTION AND MESSAGE CAME IN RE-
LIEVING NOOR OF HIS POSITION AND ORDERING HIM TO RETURN
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TO KABUL IMMEDIATELY. TURABAZ SAID THAT NOOR WAS "SHOCKED"
AND HIS FIRST REACTION WAS TO RETURN TO KABUL THIS WEEKEND.
WE HAVE NO ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ABOUT HIS PLANS, BUT SUS-
PECT HE IS CAREFULLY CONSIDERING ALL HIS OPTIONS.

2. EMBASSY IS OF COURSE IN TURMOIL. BOTH AMBASSADOR AND
MINISTER COUNSELOR HAVE BEEN RECALLED AS HAS DR. ABDUL

RAHIM, THE RECENTLY ARRIVED CONSUL. THIS BY DEFAULT WOULD LEAVE FIRST SECRETARY RAHMATULLAH ASEFI IN CHARGE OF A ONE MAN EMBASSY. ASEFI'S POSITION HOWEVER IS VERY TENUOUS. HE IS A MOHAMMADZAI AND REPORTEDLY ALL HIS FAMILY'S PROPERTY HAS JUST BEEN CONFISCATED. ACCORDING TO ONE THEORY ASEFI

IS A PROTEGE OF NOORS' AND IS A PARCHAMIST. ANOTHER THEORY IS THAT ASEFI IS A KHALQIST AND WAS SENT TO SPY ON AMBASSADOR.

3. LOCAL AFGHAN RUMOR MILL HAS BEEN WORKING OVERTIME. FORMER AMBASSADOR KARIM AND OTHERS HAVE HEARD THAT TARAKI HAS BEEN EITHER ASSASSINATED OR SHOT IN THE ARM AND THAT HEAVY FIGHTING IS CONTINUING IN THE EASTERN PROVINCES. ACCORDING TO A RUMOR SWEEPING AFGHAN STUDIES INSTITUTE IN OMAHA, ADDITIONAL RUSSIAN TROOPS HAVE BEEN SENT TO MAN SOVIET GARRISONS ON AFGHAN BORDER.

4. THERE APPEAR TO BE TWO SCHOOLS OF THOUGHT AMONG AFGHAN STUDENTS IN OMAHA. ONE GROUP BELIEVES THAT INDOMITABLE AFGHAN SPIRIT WILL SURVIVE IN THE END. THEY BELIEVE THE PRESENT UNREST IS SO WIDESPREAD THAT THE GOVERNMENT CANNOT SURVIVE EVEN WITH THE HELP OF SOVIET SUPPLIED WEAPONS AND SOVIET ADVISORS. ANOTHER GROUP BELIEVES THAT IT IS ALREADY TOO LATE FOR ANY COUNTER-ACTION. THEY CLAIM THE AFGHAN ARMY IS NOW TOTALLY UNDER THE CONTROL OF SOVIET
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ADVISORS OR SOVIET TRAINED AFGHAN OFFICERS AND THAT IT WOULD TAKE A MASS UPRISING TO OVERTHROW PRESENT GOVERNMENT.

5. TOM GOUTIERRE, DIRECTOR OF THE AFGHAN STUDIES INSTITUTE, BELIEVES THAT KHALQ-PARCHAM SPLIT IS STRICTLY A POWER STRUGGLE AND HAS NO IDEOLOGICAL OVERTONES. HE BELIEVES TARAKI IS STILL IN CONTROL BUT DEFERS TO AMIN. GOUTIERRE BELIEVES AMIN IS MORE OF A "FASCIST" THAN A "COMMUNIST" AND DESCRIBES HIM AS A "FIREBALL" -- "ERRATIC, TEMPERMENTAL, IMPATIENT AND IMPULSIVE." GOUTIERRE WOULD ALSO USE ALL THESE ADJECTIVES TO DESCRIBE PRESENT AFGHAN POLICIES. CHRISTOPHER

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